

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

Happenings of Interest Both General and Personal Gathered Around Town.

The lady Maccabees will give their annual outing at Marshall Hall on Thursday, July 25.

Mrs. Alice Woomert, Reading, Pa., is visiting her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Estelle Woomert, South Royal street.

Miss Theresa Nash, of Seminary Hill, is spending her vacation with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Curtiss, Oakten, Va.

A marriage license was issued in Washington yesterday to Daniel Jerome and Willie Audrey Miller both of Alexandria.

Vernon A. Warfield, this city, was among those who successfully passed the examination of the State Board of Pharmacy held in Richmond recently.

Frances Irene Butts, four years old, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Butts, died this morning at her parents' residence, 227 South Payne street.

A Soldiers' benefit will be given at 8:15 o'clock tomorrow evening in the Elks' Hall by the soldiers from Camp Humphreys under the auspices of the Commission Training Camp Activities.

Mrs. Walter U. Varney who has been ill in a Washington Hospital for several months has returned to her home in Del Ray considerably improved.

Rebecca Lee, a well-known colored resident, died yesterday at the alms house. The deceased was generally known as "Aunt Beekie," and had reached an advanced age.

If you have whooping cough go to the city health office and procure a shoulder band to be worn to let the public know. The band is of baby blue ribbon on which is printed in black letters "Whooping Cough."

A big automobile driven by William Newman, of that firm of Newman & Blackstone, contractors, Washington, became unmanageable this morning and crashed into a culvert on the Franconia road, a short distance south of Alexandria. The culvert was badly damaged and the machine was nearly demolished. Mr. Newman escaped injury.

OWLS TO GET NEW LIFE. NATIONAL ORGANIZER HERE TO SECURE MORE MEMBERS

Alexandria Nest of Owls is going to have a new life injected into it. Sam Bain, of Norfolk, National organizer of the order, is in this city with the avowed intention of increasing the membership of the local nest to 5,000. Unlike a majority of the fraternal organizations, the Order of Owls, along with its social features, carries an attractive and comparatively inexpensive beneficial proposition. The Owls care for you in a financial way when you are ill or laid up as a result of an accident to you when your "flivver" goes wrong and lands you in a ditch or tries to mow down a tree while you are at the wheel, and when you have "gone west" the undertaker doesn't have to worry about the money for your funeral expenses. In addition to these things the Owls pension the widows of members of the order and provide a home for the orphans. That Governor Westmoreland Davis thinks well of the Order of Owls is indicated by the fact that he is a full-fledged member. Mr. Bain is going to be present tonight when Alexandria Nest, No. 1779, meets at the Pythian Temple, Cameron street, between Fairfax and Royal streets, and will preside over the initiation of a big class of candidates. Mr. Bain wants every member of the local nest, as well as Owls who are only temporarily in Alexandria, to attend this meeting. Mr. Bain stated today that applications for membership will be received at this meeting.

The picture "The Italian Battlefront," now playing at the Polaris Theater at one dollar a seat, will be shown here two days, July 25 and 26 at the Grand Theater. Admission 15c.

FLY HUNTING SEASON

Swatting Now May Prevent Abundant Reproduction Before Cold Weather. Screening, Fly Paper, Etc., Good Only as Temporary Expedients.

Every fly that this year contaminates and destroys food or spreads illness is an enemy of America in even greater degree than in the past. As a fly hunter, alluding to the tendency of the insect to spread disease, expressed in recently, the fly is a veritable "Germ-Hun." Every fly destroyed means a contribution, be it ever so slight, to the cause of America efficient.

The best time to swat the fly, of course, is early in the breeding season, before the young ones have become grandparents. Flies killed in the spring prevent hordes later on. But it is a never-ending battle, and in late July and early August vigilance becomes more than ever necessary. Work to kill flies even at this time may prevent abundant reproduction before cold weather. In fact, there is no closed season in hunting flies. A swat on any day of the year is a meritorious swat, and even a fly buzzing around a window-pane in mid-winter should be regarded as legitimate prey.

Controlling the Fly.

Careful screening of windows and doors during the summer months does not decrease the number of flies, but at least it lessens the danger of contamination of food. This applies not only to homes, but with equal force to stores, restaurants, bakeries, dairies, and every other place where food is handled. Use of sticky fly papers to destroy flies that have gained access to houses also is well known, and fly-poison preparations are common.

Many of the commercial fly poisons contain arsenic, and their use in the household is attended by considerable danger, especially to children. This danger, according to specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is lessened by the use of a weak solution of formalin. An effective fly poison is made by adding three teaspoonfuls of the commercial formalin to a pint of milk or water sweetened with a little brown sugar.

Flytraps may be used to advantage. Their use has been advocated not only because of immediate results, but because of the chances that the flies may be caught before they lay their first batch of eggs, thus reducing the numbers of future generations. Many types of fly traps are on the market, and as a rule the larger ones are effective. The U. S. Department of Agriculture on request will send directions for making flytraps, not only for household use, but for catching flies and destroying eggs around stables and other breeding places.

Preventive Measures.

Fly papers, poison, and traps at best are only temporary expedients. The most logical method of abating the fly nuisance is the elimination or treatment of all breeding places. It would appear, specialists say, from what is known of the life history and habits of the common house fly that it is perfectly feasible for cities and towns to reduce the numbers of these annoying and dangerous insects so greatly as to render them of comparatively slight account. Following are some recommendations of entomologists who have studied the subject thoroughly:

Water-tight floors in stables, of concrete or masonry, prevent egg development.

Horse manure should be kept in fly-tight pits or bins, equipped wherever possible with flytraps. Manure should be removed frequently, not less frequently than twice a week during the summer months.

In rural and suburban districts stable manure should be removed every morning and hauled out at once and spread rather thinly on the fields, not only to prevent development of fly eggs, but to get the maximum fertilizing value.

Treatment of manure with chemical substances to kill the eggs and maggots of the house fly has been found effective in experiments by the Department of Agriculture, which has publications for free distribution describing in detail this and other methods of destroying flies, their eggs and maggots.

Not only horse stables but chicken yards, piggeries and garbage receptacles as well must be guarded. In cities, with better methods of garbage disposal and with the lessening of the number of horses and stables with the increase of street railways and automobiles, the time may not be far away, according to Department specialists, when window screens may be discarded.

MR. CARLIN AT ORANGE

Our Congressman Offers to Meet His Opponent, Col. White, in Joint Debate Anywhere in This District and Discuss Campaign Issues.

Orange, Va., July 23.—Congressman C. C. Carlin was in Orange yesterday, having made various appointments some days ago by letter, meeting his many friends and admirers and discussing matters of interest that could not be disposed of by correspondence. As it happened, his opponent, Col. E. B. White, and the Hon. Lindsay Gordon, of Louisa, several days ago advertised to speak and spoke at the courthouse, apparently unaware of the congressman's appointments.

A. B. Tallafiero, an Orange lawyer, who is managing Col. White's campaign in this county, yesterday morning approached Congressman Carlin through the Hon. George L. Browning, inquiring whether Congressman Carlin expected to speak. Congressman Carlin expressed a desire to speak if invited by his opponent, and not being invited, later, after the speaking was over, urged by his friends and others who had assembled around the courthouse steps, the Congressman spoke, expressing regret that he had not been invited to the White-Gordon meeting, and assuring the audience that he would return later to address them, when he would be delighted to share time with Col. White for the purpose of discussing the issues of the campaign. His offer to meet Col. White in joint debate there or anywhere and any time throughout the district, now that Congress was practically adjourned, met with an enthusiastic reception.

HUNS STILL RETREAT

Sky Illuminated by Burning Towns and Ammunition Dumps—Allies Still Press On.

With the French Armies in the Field, July 23.—The German retreat northward from the Marne is being carried out by the light of burning villages. The sky is illuminated from horizon to horizon by blazing towns and ammunition dumps, as the enemy continues his retirement toward the Vesle river.

Allied aviators report great congestion on the roads below Bazoches (on the Vesle, two and a half miles west of Fismes and sixteen miles north of the Marne). Bazoches is one of the most important railway and highway centers in this region. It is the junction of the railways running from Soissons and Oulchy-le-Chateau to Fismes.

It is established that the Germans already have used sixty divisions (720,000 men).

Paris, July 23.—Artillery fighting was reported on the whole offensive front last night by the French war office today.

"During the night only artillery was reported on the whole battlefield," the communique said.

"North of Montdidier (Picardy front) a sharp local operation enabled the French to take Mailly-Raineval, Sauvillers and Aubivillers, together with 300 prisoners."

London, July 23.—British troops made slight advances in various sectors of the Picardy and Flanders fronts yesterday and last night, Field Marshal Haig reported today. These advances improved British positions south of Hebuterne and near Hamel, both of which are north of Albert, and between Merris and Metern, on the west portion of the Flanders salient.

Paris, July 23.—Oulchy-le-Chateau, the dominating point on the line between Soissons and Chateau-Thierry, is reported to have been captured by the allies this morning.

Additional important gains are said to have been made in the Soissons region. General Mangin is tightening his grip on Mont de Paris, which commands the city of Soissons.

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At the Grand Theater, Tuesday William S. Hart in a 7-reel feature, "Two Gun Man."

DEATH OF B. F. BETTIS

Veteran Policeman Passed Away Last Night—Member of Force Since Its Organization—At One Time Was Lieutenant—Was a Confederate Veteran.

Benjamin F. Bettis, one of the oldest members of the police force, both in age and point of service, died about 9 o'clock last night at his residence, 517 South Fairfax street. His death followed a long illness.

The deceased was born in Stafford county over 68 years ago. During the war between the states he was a member of Hart's South Carolina battery. At the close of hostilities he moved to Alexandria, where he since resided.

Early in the 70s, after the formation of the uniformed police of Alexandria, he became a member of that organization. After many years of service he was made lieutenant of the force, and upon its reorganization several years ago he became first sergeant, which position he held until declining health forced him to relinquish the position. He, however, remained a member of the force, and was for some time in charge of the desk at police headquarters. He later found himself unable to perform his duties in that capacity and for some time had been confined to his home.

Besides his widow he is survived by a son, Julian F. Bettis.

He deceased was a member of Osceola Tribe of Red Men and Alexandria Council, No. 5, Order Fraternal Americans.

THE FILTRATION PLANT

Directors of Alexandria Water Company Direct Engineer to Proceed With Work—An Additional Chlorine Plant Also to Be Installed at Once.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Alexandria Water Company, held this morning, Messrs. D. J. Howell & Son, engineers of the company, were directed to proceed forthwith with the preparation for and construction of a filtration plant in accordance with an order of the State Corporation Commission.

The board expressed a desire to have the work prosecuted as rapidly as possible so that the plant could be put in operation at the earliest practicable moment.

The United States public health service made a suggestion yesterday afternoon to the engineer of the water company that an additional chlorine plant be installed by the Alexandria Water Company as a matter of additional precaution and such a plant was at once ordered by long distance telephone to come from New York by special messenger. This additional plant will be erected tomorrow by an expert from the company furnishing the apparatus.

ASKS CO-OPERATION FOR CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS

At a meeting of the civic bureau of the Chamber of Commerce held last night, presided over by Robert S. Jones, chairman, a special committee composed of Mrs. T. C. Howard, Mrs. S. B. Fowler and Mrs. Julius Dreifuss, from the Parent-Teachers' Association, appeared in the interest of the Children's Playgrounds. The committee from the Chamber of Commerce will co-operate in the movement.

MRS. WELLS DIES TODAY; VICTIM OF TYPHOID FEVER.

Mrs. Gussie A. Wells, wife of George W. Wells, died at 8 o'clock this morning at her residence, 114 North Fairfax street, following a two weeks' illness of typhoid fever. The deceased, in addition to her husband, is survived by six sons: George W., Jr., William, Harold, Eugene, Alton and Zora Wells. Eugene Wells is now in the navy. The funeral arrangements have not yet been made. Mrs. Wells' condition was thought to have been improving and her death came as a shock to her friends and relatives.

The Japanese cabinet at an important session yesterday decided to comply with the suggestions of the United States to accelerate intervention in Siberia.

LABORATORY PLANNED

Red Cross Unit Also to Be Established Under Direction of Dr. Wood—Purpose to Promote Health of Soldiers and Citizens.

A laboratory soon will be opened up here under the direction of Dr. W. L. Wood, director of the American Red Cross. The laboratory will be for the use of the physicians of this city and the surrounding counties. While it has not yet been definitely determined just where it will be placed it is more than probable that it will be established in a room in the rear of the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce.

It is proposed to have established here at once a Red Cross station which will include a Red Cross nurse, a bacteriologist, assistant bacteriologist, milk and dairy products inspector, and sanitary inspector.

There also will be a business manager who will be a citizen of Alexandria, and the entire unit will be under the direction of Dr. Wood.

It was explained by Dr. Wood today that this unit will be here until the close of the war and its object is to promote the general health of the soldiers and citizens as well.

The work will be started this week and will be pushed as rapidly as possible.

CROWN PRINCE ASKS AID

American Troops Have Pushed Six Miles Beyond Chateau Thierry and Are Still Pressing On.

Paris, July 23.—Despite powerful German counter attacks fresh progress was made by the Franco-American troops yesterday. They passed the heights east of La Croix and Griselles and pushed forward beyond Epieds, northeast of Mont St. Pere.

Between the Marne and Rheims they are holding Courton and Roi Woods. North of these positions the British scored a new advance, taking 200 prisoners and forty machine guns. Heavy artillery combats rage north of the Oureq and in the Champagne. Infantry fighting was not renewed in these sectors.

With the French Army in France, July 22.—Frederick William, the German imperial crown prince, has been obliged to call for help from his cousin, Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria.

German divisions from the army in the north have been hurried down to protect the western flank of the defeated army which has been driven back over the Marne and ejected from Chateau Thierry by Franco-American troops.

The Bavarian crown prince is in chief command in Flanders. Should he honor in full the distress call of his Prussian cousin by rushing his reserves to the Champagne, his activities against the British in Flanders would be diminished or might even cease. In any event, should he send reinforcements to Crown Prince Frederick William, he would be unable to hurl any fresh offensive from his front toward toward the Channel ports.

WORK OF REHABILITATING SOLDIERS BY GOVERNMENT

The United States government is not going to be content with merely re-educating and rehabilitating its soldiers who have been disabled by wounds, and fitting them for useful and gainful occupations; it is not going to leave them to shift for themselves, but will exert an active continuing interest in their welfare.

This does not mean that the government is to coddle them or treat them as weaklings, but it is going to take an active interest in securing them work, and in other ways endeavor to make up to them the opportunities and advantages they lost by reason of wounds received in fighting their country's battles.

Every Liberty Loan Bond and every War Savings Stamp purchased aids in this work.

TO ENLARGE SURPRISE

Movie Theater Will Have Attractive New Front and Addition Which Will Double Its Seating Capacity—Start Work Soon.

The Surprise Theater, R. A. Steele, manager, located on the north side of King street between Washington and St. Asaph streets, soon will be enlarged so that its seating capacity will be more than doubled. The old front will be torn out and the new front, which will be twice the present side, will be one of the most attractive on King street.

With a view of increasing the seating capacity of this place of amusement has secured the adjoining building, formerly occupied by Weil Brothers, and Contractor R. S. Cleveland will this week begin work of razing that structure in order to make the additions to the Surprise.

It is expected that the actual work of construction will require about three months. When completed, the Surprise will be a modern movie establishment in every particular and will have a seating capacity in excess of 1,000.

SOFT DRINK VENDORS

Persons Who Dispense the Same Must Procure Licenses—Minimum Fine of Twenty-five Dollars on Delinquents.

Under the provisions of section 64-b of the Acts of the Assembly, all persons dispensing soft drinks are compelled to secure licenses. Any person who fails to comply with the law will be subject to a fine ranging from \$25 to \$100.

The following named persons are the only ones who have, so far, been licensed to deal in soft drinks in Alexandria:

Albert Abel, 312 Princess street.
Charles Brent, 718 N. Washington street.
Ella Braxton, 332 N. Fairfax street.
Johanna Corbin, 210 N. Payne street.
Charles L. Ewald, 701 N. Washington street.
Christine Fultz, 525 S. Royal street.
Walter L. Gahan, 520 S. Alfred street.
Lizzie Grady, 404 N. Fairfax street.
H. Kirk & Sons, Inc., King and Strand.
G. K. Hedlin, 301 N. Alfred street.
Charles Hicks, 203 Princess street.
P. E. Igou Est., 1000 Duke street.
Edward McKenna, 103 Franklin street.
W. H. Harris Distributing Co., Inc., 123 S. Union street.
Edward E. Wood, 532 S. Pitt street.

Acts of the Assembly 1918
Sec. A. Soft drinks defined.—The word "soft drinks" as used in this act shall be construed to embrace and include any and all beverages, patented, domestic or otherwise, of every description and kind, which may be offered for sale, in this state, not embraced in the words "ardent spirits" as defined in this act.

Sec. 64-b. License for sale of soft drinks.—It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to dispense soft drinks without obtaining a license to do so from the circuit court of the county, or corporation or hustings court of the city in which county or city the privileges are to be exercised. No such license shall be granted unless it shall appear that notice of the application has been posted for ten days on the front door of the applicant's place of business and where the soft drinks are to be sold. Any citizen may appear personally or by counsel in opposition to the granting of said license, and the court may in its discretion refuse to grant such license if convinced that the person applying is not a suitable person to exercise the said privilege. The clerk of the court shall receive for all services rendered by him in connection with the issuance of such a license a fee not to exceed twenty-five cents. All licenses issued under this section shall be granted subject to revocation by the circuit court of the county or the corporation or hustings court of the city, where such person does business; and shall also be subject to suspension for cause during the vacation of the court by

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TO ASKS AID FOR ROADS

Virginia Delegation Urges Federal Government to Take Over Repairing State Highways Damaged by Big Army Trucks.

Julian Y. Williams, business manager of the Chamber of Commerce, went to Washington today and joined a delegation who waited on General Goethals, at the War Department, in the interest of having roads leading to government cantonments, which have been damaged by the big army trucks, repaired by the government. Many roads in this section have been seriously damaged.

Virginia has joined the movement to have the Federal government repair the highways which the army motor trucks have cut to pieces. Virginia's highways have suffered severely from the heavy motor trucks, and the roads in the neighborhood of Alexandria, Richmond, Petersburg, Norfolk and Newport News, it is declared, have been literally torn to ribbons. At these points the Federal government has concentrated its naval and army activities in Virginia.

Senator Martin, of Virginia, arranged for a conference with General Goethals, in charge of transportation for the War Department, for today when a delegation composed of Senators Martin and Swanson, Representatives Carlin, Montague, Watson, Bland and Holland, Adjutant General Joe Lane Stern and members of the Virginia State Highway Commission, urged that the Federal government repair and maintain the highways as long as the army trucks are compelled to use them.

The roads leading from Washington to Quantico and Richmond, from Richmond to Newport News and Richmond to Petersburg have been badly damaged by the army trucks and the delegation asked General Goethals to repair them. The same request has been laid before the Secretary Baker by Senator Smith and members of the Maryland congressional delegation in respect to Maryland's roads. Secretary Baker referred the matter to the Agricultural Department. There it is hanging fire.

If neither the War nor the Agricultural Department take any steps to reconstruct the damaged highways, it is probable that Senator Martin, who is majority elder of the Senate, will throw the weight of his influence behind the Smith bill, placing \$20,000,000 at the disposal of the War Department for the repair and maintenance of State highways used as military highways. Senator Smith, of Maryland, introduced this bill in the Senate three months ago. Action on it has been held up while the War and Agricultural Departments are reaching a conclusion whether they can take steps to repair the highways under the present law.

Senator Martin is chairman of the committee on appropriations, and should he lay the case of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware before this committee there is a strong likelihood that Congress will come to the relief of these states, the highways of which have been ruined by the heavy army trucks.

SERGT. CURRAN KILLED IN FRANCE; SISTER LIVES HERE

Sergt. Arthur Curran, of Richmond, Va., who was killed in battle in France on June 8 was a brother of Mrs. Andrew J. McGhee, of 1112 King street, this city. The deceased was a native of Richmond, Va., and when the war broke out was in the National Army.

Word of his death has just been received by his sister. In addition to Mrs. McGhee, this city, he is survived by another sister, Mrs. Annie E. Carter, Richmond, and a brother, John C. Curran, Richmond.

Sergt. Curran only a short time before leaving for France was the guest of his sister in this city.

DEATHS

BETTIS—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BETTIS, son of Thomas L. and Sarah J. Bettis, born in Stafford county, Va., January 5, 1849, died, Alexandria, Va., July 22, 1918. Funeral services from his late residence, 517 South Fairfax street, on Wednesday, July 24, 1918, at 3 p. m. Interment private.